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Agenda items 26, 34, 36, 38, 88, 94, 108 and 109

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Letter dated 5 June 2012 from the Permanent Representative of Kazakhstan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to submit to you the Declaration of the Heads of member States of the Collective Security Treaty Organization made at the Summit in Moscow on 15 May 2012 (see annex).

I would be grateful if the text of the present letter and its annex were issued as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 26, 34, 36, 38, 88, 94, 108 and 109, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Byrganym **Aitimova**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of the Republic of Kazakhstan
to the United Nations

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Annex to the letter dated 5 June 2012 from the Permanent Representative of Kazakhstan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

[Original: Russian]

Declaration of the Heads of States members of the Collective Security Treaty Organization

The world is increasingly shifting towards a multipolar system of international relations, with a strengthening of global and regional cooperation. In the area of security, there are still a number of negative elements, some of them related to recurrent and forceful intervention in crisis situations and attempts to circumvent generally accepted international legal norms and principles.

In the contemporary world, particular importance is attached to strengthening a positive and unifying agenda for the international community and to ensuring equal rights and democratic governance in international relations. Comprehensive and long-lasting solutions to existing conflicts may be found only through peaceful means and political dialogue.

The United Nations continues to be a pillar of international relations and equitable multilateral cooperation. It has a unique legitimacy and the necessary authority to respond adequately to the variety of contemporary risks and threats. It is the United Nations that should continue to provide political, legal and moral leadership in dealing with global challenges, to establish equitable principles and standards of interaction, to monitor their implementation and to render necessary assistance and support for the States that need it.

We support the efforts to expand cooperation between the United Nations and the Collective Security Treaty Organization in connection with Chapter VIII of the Charter of the United Nations, including in the area of peacebuilding, and we emphasize the importance of developing cooperation between the Collective Security Treaty Organization and other international and regional organizations.

The expanding role of regional organizations is an integral part of modern international relations. We are convinced that in today's world, the effective work of regional bodies is an important element in building the new global architecture. Integration associations and organizations in the Commonwealth of Independent States area contribute to these processes.

The Collective Security Treaty Organization is a key tool for ensuring security and stability in its area of responsibility.

In the year of the twentieth anniversary of the signing of the Treaty on Collective Security and the tenth anniversary of the establishment of the Collective Security Treaty Organization, we confirm our commitment to the purposes and principles of the Treaty on Collective Security and our willingness to further develop and intensify our comprehensive alliance in the foreign policy, military and military technology fields and in the sphere of countering transnational challenges and threats to security and stability.

We support the strengthening of multilateral mechanisms for disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control. Our priorities include the provision of equal and indivisible security for all States as a condition for further progress towards nuclear disarmament, strengthening non-proliferation regimes and supporting the establishment of zones free of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction in various regions of the world, as well as the provision and enforcement of security assurances.

We reaffirm our strong support for the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and welcome multilateral efforts to strengthen it, including through the new Treaty review process beginning in 2012. We support the strengthening of the safeguards system of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), including through the universal adoption of additional protocols to IAEA safeguards agreements.

Important steps in the process of nuclear disarmament and in strengthening the non-proliferation regime should be: the swift entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty, the launch at the Conference on Disarmament of negotiations on a treaty banning the production of fissile materials for nuclear weapons; and the establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones.

We note with satisfaction the entry into force on 21 March 2009 of the Treaty on a Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone in Central Asia and we emphasize the role of this zone in strengthening the nuclear non-proliferation regime and also in promoting cooperation in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy and in the environmental rehabilitation of territories affected by radioactive contamination.

We are convinced that the early establishment in the Middle East of a zone free of weapons of mass destruction and the means for their delivery would contribute to a comprehensive solution for strengthening the nuclear non-proliferation regime and would facilitate confidence-building among neighbours and the establishment of peace and cooperation in the region. In that connection, we welcome the convening in 2012 of a conference on the establishment of a Middle East zone free of weapons of mass destruction, with the participation of all States in the region.

We reaffirm our unconditional support for the international regimes to prohibit biological, toxin and chemical weapons. We consider such regimes as integral and effective elements of the international security system.

We consider the development of partnerships with the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) as an important element in strengthening international and regional security, and in increasing confidence, transparency and predictability.

We express our readiness to undertake joint efforts with NATO countries, first and foremost in the political and diplomatic sphere, to oppose the proliferation of ballistic missiles on the basis of a shared understanding of contemporary challenges and threats and a mutual rejection of attempts to ensure security at the expense of the security of others.

We reaffirm that any unilateral deployment of strategic missile defence systems by a State or group of States without consideration of the legitimate interests of other countries and without providing those countries with legally binding assurances could be detrimental to international security and to strategic stability in Europe and in the world as a whole.

We support the adaptation of the common European security architecture to the realities of the current global situation. In that connection, we support the initiative of the Russian Federation to conclude a treaty on European security, a legally binding document that would strengthen the principles of indivisible and equal justice for all States of the Euro-Atlantic region in international law.

We view as unacceptable any attempts to impose measures as a means of political and economic pressure against States, including States members of the Organization, bearing in mind that only equitable and respectful dialogue can facilitate the settlement of differences.

We confirm our commitment to the goals and targets set out in the Astana Declaration of Heads of States members of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE). We are in favour of enhancing the status and role of OSCE in the current system of international relations as a forum for equitable political dialogue that takes into account the interests of all States members of OSCE.

We believe that we must continue the efforts to rationalize the activities of OSCE institutions, including its missions, develop its Charter, streamline its humanitarian efforts and the involvement of non-governmental organizations, coordinate unified rules for national elections observation for the Office of Democratic Institutions and Human Rights, promote tolerance and non-discrimination and oppose manifestations of neo-Nazism in contemporary Europe.

We support the strengthening of OSCE activities to counter transnational challenges and threats to security, including terrorism and religious extremism, organized crime, corruption, trafficking in persons, drug trafficking and illegal immigration.

We share the international community's consensus, which developed following the accident at the Japanese nuclear power plant Fukushima-1, regarding the need for collective efforts to strengthen safety at nuclear power facilities. We note the need to improve the international legal regime on nuclear safety, in particular the Convention on Nuclear Safety and the Convention on Early Notification of a Nuclear Accident. We believe that this will contribute to rapidly restoring confidence in nuclear power as an important source for meeting humanity's expanding energy needs.

The situation in Afghanistan, which has a direct border with the Organization's area of responsibility, is a cause for serious concern, as the trafficking and sale of drugs illegally manufactured in Afghanistan continue to pose a threat to international peace and stability, while terrorist activity in Afghanistan has an adverse impact on the security of countries in Central Asia.

We reaffirm our willingness to fully support the emergence of Afghanistan as a peaceful, prosperous, independent and neutral State, free from terrorism and drugs and from any foreign military presence. We consider that the withdrawal of the International Security Assistance Force should be implemented through a resolution of the United Nations Security Council, following a report on completion of the Force's mandate.

We are concerned at the trend towards forceful intervention in crisis situations, in circumvention of the norms and principles of international law, and we emphasize the importance of using peaceful means for conflict resolution, with respect for the principle of non-intervention in the internal affairs of States.

Reaffirming the need for an exclusively peaceful solution to the Nagorny Karabakh issue, we emphasize the importance of the early completion of work on the basic principles for solution of the Nagorny Karabakh issue, mediated by the OSCE Minsk Group Co-Chairs, on the basis of the principles and norms of international law, the Charter of the United Nations, the Helsinki Final Act, in particular the provisions concerning the non-use of force or threat of use of force, the territorial integrity of States, equal rights and the right of peoples to self-determination.

We express our concern at the increasing tension around Iran. Any developments of a confrontational nature, especially against the background of general instability in the Middle East and North Africa, could have serious negative consequences not only for the neighbouring countries of the region directly adjacent to the area of responsibility of the Collective Security Treaty Organization, but also for the international community as a whole.

In this context, we call on all members of the international community to exercise maximum responsibility and restraint and to refrain from making any statements and especially from taking any actions that could lead to further escalation of the confrontation.

The evolving situation in and around Syria is a cause of serious concern. We support an early resolution of the crisis by the Syrians themselves, with respect for the sovereignty of the Syrian Arab Republic. In this connection, we emphasize the need for an immediate end to the violence, the launching of a comprehensive political dialogue between the authorities and the opposition without any preconditions, and the continuance of political and socioeconomic reforms to serve the interests of all Syrian citizens.

We expect the parties to implement the Plan of the Joint Special Envoy of the United Nations and the League of Arab States to Syria, Mr. Kofi Annan. We support the resolutions adopted by the United Nations Security Council for a peaceful solution to the situation in Syria.

We are convinced that the urgent internal contradictions in the Arab countries must be resolved by peaceful means and within a constitutional framework, through comprehensive national dialogue without foreign intervention. The task of the international community is to ensure that the Middle East does not become a source of new challenges to international stability and security, the non-proliferation regime and dialogue among civilizations. The primary responsibility for this task lies with the United Nations Security Council. Resolutions adopted by United Nations forums should be formulated on the basis of objective facts and the international legal framework.

The upheavals now occurring in the Arab world should not distract the international community from its efforts to find solutions to long-standing conflicts in the region. In that context, we emphasize the need to make progress towards a comprehensive Arab-Israeli settlement on the familiar basis of international law, including through the creation of an independent, territorially integrated and viable

Palestinian State, based on the 1967 borders, coexisting with all of its neighbours in peace and security.

We advocate broader cooperation with the Shanghai Cooperation Organization on security matters and on efforts to address contemporary challenges and threats.

We are ready to cooperate with the Conference on Interaction and Confidence-building Measures in Asia in addressing new challenges and threats and also in efforts to ensure regional security.

We reaffirm our readiness to provide consistent support for a positive and unifying agenda in international affairs, and for reducing conflict and strengthening the rule of law and democratic governance in relations between States.

Moscow

15 May 2012